

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing a computer network for a customer, wherein the computer network comprises a number of computing units, including a processing unit, comprising the steps
5 of:

receiving an order for the computer network for the customer;

identifying the units of the computer network;

establishing a communication link between processing unit of the computer network
and an existing computer network of the customer;

10 transferring to the computer network data concerning the service directory of the
existing computer network of the customer; and

packaging the units for shipment to the customer.

2. The method for providing a computer network for a customer of claim 1, wherein the
15 step of establishing a communication link comprises the step of establishing a virtual private network
link between the processing unit of the computer network and the existing computer network of the
customer.

3. The method for providing a computer network for a customer of claim 1, wherein the
20 step of transferring to the computer network data concerning the service directory of the existing
computer network of the customer, comprises the step of building a service directory on the
computer network, wherein the service directory on the computer network is configured to function
with the service directory of the existing computer network of the customer.

4. The method for providing a computer network for a customer of claim 1, wherein the step of packaging the network for shipment to the customer comprises the steps of:

placing the units of the computer network in a rack;

testing the computer network; and

5 shipping the rack, with the units included therein, to the customer.

5. The method for providing a computer network for a customer of claim 1,

wherein the step of transferring to the computer network data concerning the service directory of the existing computer network of the customer, comprises the step of building a service
10 directory on the computer network, wherein the service directory on the computer network is configured to function with the service directory of the existing computer network of the customer; and

wherein the step of packaging the network for shipment to the customer comprises the steps of,

15 placing the units of the computer network in a rack;

testing the computer network; and

shipping the rack, with the units included therein, to the customer.

6. The method for providing a computer network for a customer of claim 1, further
20 comprising the step; following the receipt of the computer network by the customer, updating the service directory with any changes since the step of building the service directory on the computer network.

7. A computer network, the computer network having a plurality of components, including a processing component, the computer network having been assembled for a customer and according to a method comprising the steps of,

identifying the components of the computer network;

5 establishing a communication link between the computer network and an existing computer network of the customer;

receiving at the computer network data concerning the service directory of the existing computer network of the customer

10 establishing a service directory in the computer network, the service directory being configured such that the computer network may function with the resources of the existing computer network of the customer;

testing the computer network; and

packaging the computer network for shipment to the customer.

15 8. The computer network of claim 7,
wherein the computer network is packaged for shipment to the customer such that the components are installed in an equipment rack; and

wherein the components and the equipment rack are secured for shipment such that the components and the equipment rack are shipped to the customer as a single unit.

9. A method for manufacturing a computer network, comprising the steps of:
receiving from a customer an order for a computer network;
identifying the components comprising the ordered computer network;
establishing a communications link between a processing unit of the ordered
5 computer network and an existing computer network of the customer;
transmitting from the existing computer network of the customer to the processing
unit of the ordered computer network data sufficient to synchronize the ordered computer network
with the service directory of the existing computer network;
testing the computer network; and
10 packaging the ordered computer network for shipment to the customer.

10. The method for manufacturing a computer network of claim 9, further comprising the
step of installing customer-specific software on the computer network.

15 11. The method for manufacturing a computer network of claim 9, wherein the step of
establishing a communications link between the ordered computer network and the existing
computer network comprises the step of establishing a virtual private network communication link
between the ordered computer network and the existing computer network.

20 12. The method for manufacturing a computer network of claim 9, wherein the step of
packaging the ordered computer for shipment to the customer, comprises the steps of:
placing the components of the computer network in an equipment rack;
installing cable connections between components; and
securing the components and the equipment rack for shipment such that the
25 components and the equipment rack are shipped as a single unit.

13. The method for manufacturing a computer network of claim 12, further comprising the step of updating the data of the ordered computer network following the receipt of the ordered computer network by the customer to reflect changes to the service directory.

14. A method for manufacturing a computer network for a customer, the computer network having a plurality of units, including a processing unit, comprising the steps of:

establishing a communication link between the processing unit and an existing computer network of the customer;

5 transmitting through the communication link from the existing computer network of the customer to the processing unit of the computer network being manufactured data sufficient to establish a service directory at the processing unit of the computer network being manufactured, wherein the established service directory of the computer network being manufactured is configured with the service directory of the existing computer network of the customer; and

10 assembling the units of the computer network for shipment to the customer.

15. The method for manufacturing a computer network for a customer of claim 14, wherein the step of assembling the units of the computer network for shipment to the customer comprises the steps of:

15 placing the units of the computer network in an equipment rack; and
installing cable connections between units.

16. The method for manufacturing a computer network for a customer of claim 15, wherein the step of assembling the units of the computer network for shipment to the customer
20 comprises the step of securing the units and the equipment rack for shipment such that the units and the equipment rack are shipped with the units installed within the equipment rack.

17. The method for manufacturing a computer network for a customer of claim 14, wherein the step of establishing a communication link between the processing unit and the existing
25 computer network of the customer comprises establishing a virtual private network communication link between the processing unit and the existing computer network of the customer.

18. The method for manufacturing a computer network for a customer of claim 16, wherein the step of establishing a communication link between the processing unit and the existing computer network of the customer comprises the step of accessing the existing computer network with sufficient level of access authority to access the service directory of the existing computer network of the customer.

19. The method for manufacturing a computer network for a customer of claim 14, further comprising the step of installing customer-specific software on the units of the computer network.

20. The method for manufacturing a computer network for a customer of claim 14, wherein the manufacturing site of the computer network and the site of the existing computer network are geographically distant.